

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

17 AUG 1949

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The Honorable Lindsay C. Warren  
Comptroller General  
General Accounting Office  
Washington 25, D. C.

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*G. A. C.*

My dear Mr. Warren:

As you are of course aware, this office was given legal status as an agency by the National Security Act of 1947. That Act, however, provided no detailed fiscal or administrative authorities to which reference could be made in expanding, or accounting for, funds. In view of the obvious need for clarification of our administrative and other authorities, enabling legislation was prepared which became law on 20 June 1949, as the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (Public Law 110, 81st Congress).

That Law, after considerable discussion and comment, granted to the Agency, and myself, certain very broad and unusual powers in a number of respects. Passage of this legislation, therefore, emphasizes rather than reduces the responsibilities which are placed on me and of which I am keenly aware.

We are now in the process of implementing this legislation by internal policy guides and administrative instructions. It therefore seemed an appropriate time for me to extend to you and your staff my appreciation for the support and assistance given to this Agency during the period when each exercise of authority was open to possible question or objection. We have attempted to keep your General Counsel, Mr. Fisher, aware of our general procedures and policies and wish, particularly, to express our appreciation for his able assistance and support. From time to time representatives of this office have given him assurances concerning my policies in

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regard to some of the unusual fiscal matters with which this Agency is concerned. I wish to state that, so long as I hold this position, these policies and my attitude toward the Government funds under my control will be in no way changed by the legislative grants of power to me.

To the various officers of the General Accounting Office who have also assisted in over-coming difficult problems, I extend my thanks and, particularly, for the secure and efficient audit system which has been in operation since this Agency was created. We feel that with your support we have created and developed an office which is performing a function of importance to the national security.

If at any time, you or your representatives would like clarification as to the functioning of this Agency or discussions of future policy, please be assured that I shall be at your service.

Very sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]  
R. H. HILLENROETTER  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

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